

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: Bud Hicks

Finding:

There is a need to provide for local funding of fire prevention and fire safety projects in the wildland urban interfaces areas of the Tahoe Basin by the various counties and cities within the Basin. Special Assessment Districts or other similar funding mechanisms should be created and put in place to address fire prevention and fire safety funding matters.

Background and Supporting Evidence:

Several of the local governments in the Basin have successfully implemented local funding mechanisms for fire safety and prevention projects. Similar funding mechanisms should be considered by all local governmental authorities in the Basin and, if necessary, the States of California and Nevada should provide specific authority for such funding methods by State law. Nevada law, as set forth in NRS Chapter 271, provides authority for such special assessment districts for certain "local improvements", but does not specifically identify fire prevention and fire safety as permissible projects for such funding activities. It may be necessary for the Nevada Legislature to adopt suitable legislative amendments to specifically provide for special assessments on the Nevada side of the Lake for fire safety and fire prevention matters within the wildland urban interface areas of the communities in the Basin.

Recommendation(s)

1. **It is recommended that all local governmental entities within the Tahoe Basin, including all of the counties and city governments in the Basin, consider the implementation of special assessment districts or similar funding mechanisms, for the collection of funds for fire safety and fire prevention activities in the wildland urban interface areas within and surrounding the communities in the Tahoe Basin.**
2. **It is further recommended that the States of Nevada and California should review their statutes to assure that adequate statutory authority exists to permit the imposition of such special assessment districts and, if necessary, adopt such legislation as may be reasonably necessary to authorize such local funding mechanisms in the Tahoe Basin area for fire safety and fire prevention needs.**

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- Cost / The costs of implementing these recommendations is not readily available, but it is believed they could be covered by existing public safety and legislative budgets.
- Funding source / Local governments and the States of California and Nevada.
- Staffing / to be determined
- Existing regulations and/or laws / May require amendments to existing laws.
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Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- Operational
- Social
- Political
- Policy

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- Health and Safety
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PROPOSED